

I wish someone would give me a piece of some
good writing-paper.

Obolton, Ohio

Jan. 13, 1907

Dear Mother:—

I hope you will forgive me for
not having written to you for so
long. It is the hardest thing in the
world for me to write letters. I
can never write a connected
sort of letter and no one ever like
to get letters which break off suddenly
from one subject to another, the
way that mine do.

I received the box from Oxford.
Thank you all ever so much.
The cookies were fine. The thing
that I appreciate the most is
the wash-cloth that grandma
made for me. I never such

great need of one; but I hate to use it because I don't want to wear it out right away. Who gave me the knife? It is fine but I don't know who to thank for it. Mary sent me a necktie and a dandy, red felt covered pillow with C.C. on it.

Willie says that you looked real well while he was there. I am awfully glad that you are, I hope you won't overdo in any way. I wish I had a picture of you in my room here. That one that I look is not very flattering & has a sort of tired look on your face. Haven't you a good one to give me? I haven't any good pictures of any of the family and I went some to put on my net. I have about the best

room in the boys part if I fixed it up nicely, but it needs some family pictures to make it more homelike. We have electric lights on the third story now. Isn't that fine? I have room in one corner of my room for a small dewan. Would you give me some suggestions as to how I might fix it up attractively without much if any expense? I want my room to be the best in the house, if possible. Please give me some suggestions.

A few days ago I put an electric bell of mine out in the hall and the button down on the first floor so that the

cook or Mrs. Allen can wake us up. It is my bell, put up at my own expense. Willie Channon, one of the boys rooming in the second story with myself put up a telegraph line from his room to mine. We can telegraph real well now and use the Morse code. For sounders we have the magnets of old electric bells. The work nearly as well as the ~~the~~ regular telegraph instruments now in use in cities. I have made several instruments and some of the other boys are going to put in lines from their rooms to mine, mine being the central station. So far, all the wire, batteries and apparatus are my personal belongings.

I suppose that you will be glad to hear that I passed in all my studies last term. The marks were not so very high but anyway I did not flunk.

What do you think of my going ^{to the} West with Willie in June and taking up a claim in Canada? The land up there will be very valuable in a few years whereas it can be gotten for nothing now by living on it & becoming a Canadian citizen or by paying a small sum. I would like to take up a claim near some small stream, and I am sure that it would be a good investment. The only

thing that I don't like would be the fact that I would have to become a Canadian citizen; but couldn't I become a U.S. citizen again if I wanted to? What would you think of my taking a claim? You remember, don't you, how much we used to talk about it? I am more in favor of going, now, than I was then, if possible.

Well I must go to bed. I am awfully tired all the time & still have a backache. I am hardly ever hungry at meal-time and do not eat between meals so naturally am not gaining much in height nor weight. I am five feet ten inches tall and weigh ten pounds less than I did two months ago.

Please write to me right away & answer my questions
 most affectionately your son Selden